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DE RUEHC #0353 2892225  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P R 152221Z OCT 08  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 4552  
INFO ORG FOR SECURITY CO OP IN EUR COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS STATE 110353

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL: RESPONSE TO PIA HOM  
ROBERT BOSCH,S REPORT TO THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

1. (U) Post is authorized to present the following statement  
at the October 16, 2008 Permanent Council meeting in Vienna.

Begin text:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We join in welcoming Mr. Robert Bosch, head of OSCE,s  
Presence in Albania. He and his team are doing effective and  
important work, and the United States fully supports the  
Presence and its mandate.

Albania has made remarkable progress in a number of areas,  
including reforms to improve the business climate, approval  
of a new electoral system, and important laws on judicial  
reform. The report also highlights a number of significant  
political challenges that remain, such as ensuring  
independence of the judiciary and improving the ability of  
law enforcement entities to address trafficking in persons.  
It will be to the benefit of all to continue the close  
cooperation between the Government of Albania and the OSCE in  
addressing these challenges.

At its core, the relationship between the host country and  
the OSCE mission is a partnership. We hope that the OSCE  
presence is viewed as an opportunity to progress further on  
issues of fundamental importance to Albania,s citizens and  
to future Euro-Atlantic integration.

We recognize the efforts of the PiA to focus and prioritize  
its projects in 2007 and 2008, and are confident that the PiA  
will continue with this policy of prioritizing its work  
around stronger, more focused democratization activities. We  
need to be sure that efforts are focused on priorities within  
the existing mandate, in order to best utilize the OSCE's  
limited resources.

Again, I would like to thank Mr. Bosch and his staff for for  
the important work they do.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Budget Issues (only if raised):

We fully support the mandate, and view the PiA field offices  
throughout the country as an important component. Any changes  
to the budget must not undermine the PiA,s ability to carry  
out the mandate. Today,s PC is not the time or place for a  
detailed budget discussion, we will return to budgetary  
issues when those discussions come up in the ACMF.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
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